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TITLE / Amendment

Disk Drive having Burnished Disk Surface and Burnished Air Bearing Surface
Magnetic Recording Head Burnishing Method



DETAILED ACTION / *Drawings*

The Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's objection to the drawings and will consider them once the Application is allowed.

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DETAILED ACTION / *Specification*

To expedite prosecution, the Applicants complied with the Examiner's requirement for a new title.

The Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's request for checking the specification by Applicants for errors. The Applicants will consider the Examiner's request, once the Application is allowed.

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DETAILED ACTION / Claim Rejections – 35 USC §102**Technology Center 2600**

With respect to the Examiner's rejections based on Cunningham, the Applicants hold as follows: the burnished surface of Cunningham is on a trailing edge of a central rail, which is closest to the disk and provides virtually no contribution to aerodynamic support of the slider (see column 2, lines 57-59). Moreover, the clearance of the slider with respect to the rotating disk surface is increased once the operation wear of the central rail occurs (see column 5, lines 5-8). This is due to the fact that the burnished surface of Cunningham is the result of operational wear of the slider due to intermittent impact of the slider with asperities of the rotating disk (see column 4, lines 52-57). This is materially different to the Applicants invention as in the currently amended claim 1, according to which the disk surface is substantially free of topographic inconsistencies as well as the burnished surface being placed on the air bearing surface.

The burnishing process in Cunningham is described as a result of inadvertent impact of the slider with the rotating disk surface during disk drive operation. This materially different from the Applicants process, in which the burnishing is a dedicated fabrication process prior to disk drive operation. Also, the steps of disk surface preparation, slider burnishing and burnishing result checking are not described in Cunningham. The Applicants have accordingly amended claim 12.

Thus, in view of the current amendments and arguments presented above, the Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejections based on Cunningham.



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DETAILED ACTION / Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

The Applicants acknowledge their obligation to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made.



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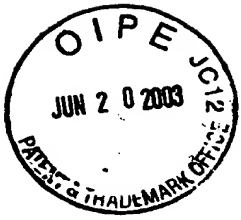
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DETAILED ACTION / *Pertinent Prior Art*

The Applicants have reviewed the references considered by the Examiner as pertinent to Applicants' disclosure. What Smith teaches is a dedicated disk burnishing zone for burnishing a slider. In the Applicants' invention, the disk surface is free of dedicated burnishing zones, since the burnishing is accomplished on the disk surface itself. This results at one hand in a disk surface substantially free of topographic inconsistencies, which in turn contributes to a lower operational flying height and reduced risk of intermittent slider impact on the rotating disc. On the other hand, the absence of dedicated burnishing areas reduces the data storage area of the rotating disk. Thus, the Applicants respectfully traverse Smith as pertinent prior art in view of the arguments presented above and the currently amended claim 1, according to which the disk surface is burnished by the slider and substantially free of topographic inconsistencies.

What Sugimoto teaches is a slider with a burnished surface and magnetic recording head in a vertical clearance to the burnished surface. This materially different from the Applicants' invention in which the burnishing surface is overlapping the contacting sensor. For that reason, the Applicants respectfully traverse Sugimoto as pertinent prior art.



IN CONCLUSION

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The Applicants have responded to all grounds of rejections and requirements where applicable. Thus, the Applicants respectfully request the application being reconsidered by the Examiner and allowed in the next Office Action.

Respectfully submitted,

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